



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Southeast Regional Office
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JAN 22 2004

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Dear MMAP Registrant:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) has automatically processed your registration for the 2004 Marine Mammal Authorization Program (MMAP) using information obtained from the NOAA Fisheries Federal fishery permitting process. Holders of valid NOAA Fisheries fishery permits do not have to submit an MMAP registration, renewal form, or processing fee to receive or validate the 2004 Authorization Certificate. The enclosed 2004 Marine Mammal Authorization Certificate, in combination with a current Federal fishing permit, will serve as your Authorization to take non-endangered marine mammals incidental to authorized fishing operations. Please review the authorization and its terms and conditions carefully.

The MMAP helps NOAA Fisheries determine how many fishermen participate in each fishery which interacts with marine mammals and how many interactions occur, and it provides a mailing list to guide the distribution of relevant outreach materials such as take reduction plan requirements. You are receiving this letter because your Federal permit identifies you as a participant in one of the fisheries with frequent or occasional levels of marine mammal interactions. The enclosed 2003 Fisheries Checklist is included, for your information, with the current List of Fisheries that require MMAP registration; you do not need to complete or return that form. Also, enclosed for your information is an update on the Atlantic Large Whale and Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Plans.

For additional copies of the Mortality/Injury Reporting Form, contact Teletha Griffin at the number above. For further information on the MMAP, please contact Juan Levesque, also at the number above.

Sincerely,

David M. Bernhart
Acting Assistant Regional Administrator
for Protected Resources

Enclosures:

Certificate
List of Fisheries
Mortality/Injury Reporting Form
Take Reduction Plan Update

File: 1501-01h.11
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Take Reduction Plan Update

Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan (ALWTRP)

NOAA Fisheries convened the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team (TRT) in April 2003 to discuss modifications to the ALWTRP to address bycatch of whales in Atlantic fisheries. The proposed rule to modify the plan, based on Team and public input, is expected to be published early in 2004 for public comment. In the interim, we would like to inform you of measures you are currently required to take and/or can take now to reduce the bycatch of large whales.

If you use gillnet gear in the Mid-Atlantic or Southeast Atlantic Coast, or American lobster trap/pot gear along the Atlantic Coast:

Your gear type is currently regulated under the ALWTRP. We urge you to obtain the regulations in their entirety to ensure you are in compliance with these requirements. If you are presently purchasing new groundline, we encourage you to consider purchasing *neutrally buoyant or sinking line* rather than floating line to reduce the likelihood of a whale encountering your gear.

If you are required under the ALWTRP to use a weak link on your buoys and/or net panels, you must use one of the configurations on the enclosed weak link/gear marking techniques guide.

If you use trap/pot gear to target conch/whelk, hagfish, red crab, scup, black sea bass, tautog, or Jonah crab in the Atlantic:

NOAA Fisheries would like to inform you that we are currently considering regulations for these trap/pot fisheries. We encourage you to review the requirements for lobster trap/pot gear in your area and call the industry liaisons to discuss gear modifications in your fishery.

For further information, contact Juan Levesque at the number above or Barb Zoodsma at 904-321-2806 or visit the ALWTRP web page at <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/whaletrp/>. If you have questions on specific gear modifications, please contact the industry liaison for your area [Glenn Salvador (302-644-2375) in the Mid-Atlantic and Bill Foster (252-986-2430) also for the Mid-Atlantic and the Southeast.]

Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Plan (BDTRP)

NOAA Fisheries anticipates publication of a proposed rule for the protection of Atlantic coastal bottlenose dolphins incidentally taken in commercial fishing sometime in early 2004. NOAA Fisheries evaluated the BDTRT's recommendations and subsequent public comments in developing this proposed rule to implement the Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Plan (BDTRP). The rule is designed to reduce the potential for commercial fishery interactions with the dolphin stock complex by implementing the following requirements: gear proximity (fishermen must stay within a set distance of gear); gear marking; prohibitions on night time fishing and times; and gear length and mesh size restrictions. Through this proposed rule, NOAA Fisheries would implement the majority of the BDTRT's consensus recommendations. We will update you regarding the status of this proposal in the future.

For further information on the BDTRP, contact Juan Levesque or visit the BDTRP web page at http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/prot_res/PR2/Health_and_Stranding_Response_Program/bdtrp.htm.



MARINE MAMMAL AUTHORIZATION PROGRAM

2003 Fisheries Checklist

Check the circle corresponding to the fishery or fisheries in which you will participate during 2003. Registration for fisheries marked with an asterisk (*) has been integrated with existing State and/or Federal permitting and licensing programs. If you have a permit or license, valid for 2003, to participate in any of the fisheries marked with an asterisk (*), you are not required to submit an MMAP registration form and processing fee in order to receive a 2003 Marine Mammal Authorization. However, if you participate in any of the fisheries not marked with an asterisk (*), or if you participate in one of the fisheries marked by an asterisk (*) but do not have a federal or state permit, you must complete this form and mail it to NMFS, along with the \$25 processing fee. Participants in non-integrated fisheries from Maine through Virginia must submit the registration form but do not need to submit the processing fee.

(Note: **No.** refers to the NMFS Fishery Identification Number and **Cat.** refers to the NMFS Fishery Category classification)

✓ **No. Cat. Fishery Description**

ALASKA

Gillnet fisheries

- O 47 II AK Bristol Bay salmon drift gillnet fishery*
- O 48 II AK Bristol Bay salmon set gillnet fishery*
- O 45 II AK Cook Inlet salmon drift gillnet fishery*
- O 18 II AK Kodiak salmon set gillnet fishery*
- O 49 II AK Metlakatla/Annette Island salmon drift gillnet fishery*
- O 08 II AK Peninsula/Aleutian Islands salmon drift gillnet fishery*
- O 19 II AK Peninsula/Aleutian Islands salmon set gillnet fishery*
- O 06 II AK Prince William Sound salmon drift gillnet fishery*
- O 15 II AK Southeast salmon drift gillnet fishery*
- O 16 II AK Yakutat salmon set gillnet fishery*

Purse seine fisheries

- O 67 II AK Southeast Alaska salmon purse seine fishery*

Trawl fisheries

- O 68 II AK miscellaneous finfish pair trawl fishery*

PACIFIC OCEAN

Gillnet fisheries

- O 12 CA angel shark/halibut and other species set gillnet (>3.5in mesh)
- O 11 II CA/OR thresher shark/swordfish drift gillnet fishery (OR permits are integrated)
- O 21 II WA Puget Sound Region salmon drift gillnet fishery (includes all inland waters south of US-Canada border and eastward of the Bonilla-Tatoosh line--Treaty Indian fishing is excluded)*
- O 92 II CA yellowtail, barracuda, white seabass, and tuna drift gillnet fishery (mesh size >3.5in and <14in)

Purse seine fisheries

- O 30 II CA anchovy, mackerel, tuna purse seine fishery
- O 32 II CA squid purse seine fishery

Longline fisheries

- O 82 II California pelagic longline fishery
- O 69 II OR swordfish floating longline fishery*
- O 73 II OR blue shark floating longline fishery*

√ **No. Cat. Fishery Description**

ATLANTIC OCEAN

Gillnet fisheries

- O 57 Northeast sink gillnet fishery*
- O 59 I U.S. Mid-Atlantic coastal gillnet fishery*
- O 83 II North Carolina inshore gillnet fishery*
- O 58 II Northeast anchored float gillnet fishery*
- O 89 II Northeast drift gillnet fishery*
- O 84 II Southeast Atlantic gillnet fishery* (integrated only for State permit holders)
- O 40 II Southeastern U.S. Atlantic shark gillnet fishery

Longline fisheries

- O 05 Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico large pelagics longline fishery*

Trawl fisheries

- O 70 Atlantic squid, mackerel, butterfish trawl fishery*
- O 65 II Atlantic herring midwater trawl (including pair trawl) fishery*

Haul/Beach seine fisheries

- O 71 II Mid-Atlantic haul/beach seine fishery*
- O 87 II North Carolina long haul seine fishery*

Stop net fisheries

- O 72 II North Carolina roe mullet stop net fishery*

Pound net fisheries

- O 88 II Virginia pound net fishery*

Trap/pot fisheries

- O 74 Northeast/Mid-Atlantic American lobster trap/pot fishery*
- O 97 II Atlantic mixed species trap/pot fishery*
- O 85 II Atlantic blue crab trap/pot fishery*

GULF OF MEXICO

Purse seine fisheries

- O 66 II Gulf of Mexico menhaden purse seine fishery

Gillnet fisheries

- O 95 II Gulf of Mexico gillnet